



Department of Justice

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Mandan Man Sentenced for Firearm in School Zone

BISMARCK - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on October 10, 2007, **Christopher J. Owens** of Mandan, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of possession of a firearm in a school zone and a charge of drug user in possession of a firearm.

Owens, 24, pleaded guilty to the charges on July 18, 2007. The firearm in a school zone incident occurred when **Owens** possessed and brandished a .380 caliber pistol in front of several witnesses on May 16, 2007, at the Mandan High School. **Owens** committed the crime of drug user in possession of a firearm when he purchased a .40 caliber pistol the following day while he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance, marijuana.

Judge Hovland sentenced **Owens** to serve one year and one day in federal prison to be followed by two years of supervised release. **Owens** was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

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“The defendant’s conduct endangered students, teachers and the general public,” said United States Attorney Drew Wrigley, “we have no tolerance for drug users who are willing to interject violence or the threat of violence into the school yard.”

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Mandan Police Department with the assistance of the Morton County State's Attorney's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott Schneider prosecuted the case.

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